

MEDIA AND FILM STUDIES

Department Overview

The interdisciplinary media and film studies minor explores the function and structure of written, aural, and visual communication systems. Grounded in a strong liberal arts preparation, the program offers core courses in media theory and practice as well as the opportunity for advanced course work and practical field experience.

Media and film studies affords students the opportunity to develop critical literacy in forms of media and communication

- by providing a foundation in the central concepts (theoretical, practical, and aesthetic) and contexts of mediated communication;
- by exploring the application of current and developing forms of media and communication; and
- by fostering facility and expertise in the use of technology related to current and emerging media.

Students also participate in programs and courses offered as part of project VIS and the John B. Moore Documentary Studies Program (MDOCS). We encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning, to discuss their program and progress with their faculty advisor, and to avail themselves of relevant college-wide lectures, symposia, and media resources.

Skidmore's media and film studies minor helps to ensure the success of the College's mission to link "theoretical with applied learning" and prepare students to "make the choices required of informed, responsible citizens" in a 21st-century context.

Director of the Media and Film Studies Program & Associate Professor of English: Paul Benzon

Associate Professor & Director of MDOCS: Adam Tinkle

Assistant Professor: Emilio Vavarella

Assistant Lecturers: Jude Abu Zaineh, Nicole Coady, Careina Yard

Administrative Assistant: Beth Miller

Affiliated Faculty & Staff:

Senior Teaching Professor of International Affairs and Arts Administration Program: Scott Mulligan

Media Services Operations Coordinator: Ron Taylor

Media Services Technician: Andrew Knispel

Media and Film Studies Minor For Students Who Entered Skidmore in Fall 2019 and Beyond

The media and film studies minor allows students

- to explore the function and structure of written, aural, and visual communication systems;
- to obtain a theoretical and contextual grounding in media and film studies; and

- to practice the application of current and developing forms of media technology related to communication.

The minor consists of a minimum of 18 credits earned from courses which have been designated as part of the program.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Course		
MF 101	Introduction to Media Studies	4
Cluster Courses		
Select at least six credits from the Media and Culture cluster from the list of courses approved for the minor (p. 3)		6
Select six credits from the Applied Media cluster from the list of courses approved for the minor (p. 3)		6
Additional Cluster Courses		
Select two additional credits from either cluster (Media and Culture or Applied Media) (p. 3) ¹		2
Total Hours		18

Additional Requirements

- At least three credits must be completed at the 300-level for the minor.
- Students must either complete one additional 300-level course or a structured field experience in consultation with the director that involves the student in applied learning. Students may complete the SFE through internships, independent studies, or a significant noncredit-bearing experience.
- Students will work closely with their advisors to select courses that form a meaningful and coherent individual curriculum.
- No more than eight credits taken at another institution may be counted toward the media and film studies minor.

¹ In exceptional cases an independent study may complete this requirement, but is subject to pre-approval by the program director.

For Students Who Entered Skidmore Prior to Fall 2019

The media and film studies minor allows students

- to explore the function and structure of written, aural, and visual communication systems;
- to obtain a theoretical and contextual grounding in media and film studies; and
- to practice the application of current and developing forms of media technology related to communication. The program involves interdisciplinary study across the arts, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences.

The minor consists of a minimum of five courses (minimally 18 credits), which have been designated as part of the program.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Course		
MF 101	Introduction to Media Studies	4
Cluster Courses		
Select at least three courses cross-divisionally from two clusters: "Media and Culture" and "Applied Media," (p. 3) ¹ with at least one course from each cluster		9-12
Additional Cluster Courses		

Select one additional course, in any cluster or disciplinary division, from the list of courses approved for the minor (p. 3) ² 3-4

Total Hours

16-20

Additional Requirements

- At least one course must be completed at the 300-level for the minor.
- Students must complete a structured field experience in consultation with the director that involves the student in applied learning. Students can fulfill this requirement through internships, independent studies, or a significant noncredit-bearing experience.
- Students will work closely with their advisors to select courses that form a meaningful and coherent individual curriculum.
- No more than two courses may be double-counted toward other college requirements.
- No more than two courses taken at another institution may be counted toward the media and film studies minor.

¹ Each of these three courses must come from a different disciplinary division (Humanities, Social Sciences, Visual and Performing Arts, and Natural Sciences and Technology)

² In exceptional cases a 3- or 4-credit independent study may complete this requirement, but is subject to pre-approval by the program director.

Course Listing

Media and Film Studies Courses

MF 101 - Introduction to Media Studies

Credits: 4

An introduction to multiple forms of modern and contemporary mass media. The course examines film and at least two other forms of mass media (such as television, radio/audio, digital media, print mass media). Students will learn how to analyze media images, texts, and systems and understand how media both informs and is informed by social structures and forces.

MF 130 - 16mm Filmmaking

Credits: 2

A project-based exploration of working in the medium of 16mm Movie Film, both in-camera and directly-on-film. Students may enter the course at any level of production experience, as basic instruction in all equipment and materials will be covered. Technical skills will be developed through a series of directed exercises done in class. Proposed projects may employ shooting and editing movie film, working directly on film emulsion animation, converting to video, combining audio and/or any other media. Students will develop their projects through screenings, and individual & class critiques. Students will focus on finding an approach to form that suits both subject matter and their personal creative goals. Students will also engage in critiques of each other's work, screenings and discussions. Exposure to a variety of creative production styles will help each student begin to develop their own unique approach.

Note(s): Fulfills Arts requirement; Fulfills Artistic Inquiry requirement.

Lab/Credit Fee: \$100

MF 151 - Special Topics in Media and Film Studies

Credits: 1-4

Topically organized courses focused on selected problems, areas, and issues of special interest in Media and Film Studies. Topics vary depending upon specialization and research interests of the instructor.

Note(s): May be repeated with a different topic for credit.

MF 251 - Special Topics in Media and Film Studies

Credits: 1-4

Topically organized courses focused on selected problems, areas, and issues of special interest in Media and Film Studies. Topics vary depending upon specialization and research interests of the instructor.

Note(s): May be repeated with a different topic for credit.

MF 299 - Professional Internship in Media and Film Studies

Credits: 1-4

Professional experience for juniors or seniors with substantial academic and cocurricular experience in the minor. With faculty sponsorship and program approval, students may extend their educational experience into such areas as journalism and communications, filmmaking, recording, and other related fields.

Prerequisites: MF 220.

Note(s): Open to junior and senior minors. Must be taken S/U.

MF 311 - Advanced Audio Production & Sound Arts Studio

Credits: 3

An introduction to a range of audio applications and ways of making in the sonic arts, including: multichannel sound, i.e. sound that comes out of more than 2 speakers, locative media, i.e. media played through mobile devices and triggered by apps that are location-aware, gallery installation, soundtracking and sound design for moving images, and other ways of thinking about audio-vision, the live performance and control capabilities of software like Ableton and Max. The course extends a presumed command of the basic toolkit of audio production, gained through prior course work or extracurricular experience in music production, audio documentary, filmmaking, sound design, or other digital time-based art, and thus is open to those with some past experience.

Prerequisites: One previous production course in DS or MF, or MU255 or AR136, or TH306 (when the topic is Sound Design) Students must have a working command of production, editing, and file management basics gained from working in software and in a time-based medium.

Note(s): Fulfills Artistic Inquiry requirement.

MF 351 - Advanced Topics in Media and Film Studies

Credits: 1-4

Topically organized courses focused on advanced subjects and methods of special interest in Media and Film Studies. Topics vary depending upon specialization and research interests of the instructor.

Note(s): May be repeated with a different topic for credit.

MF 371 - Independent Studies Media and Film Studies

Credits: 1-4

An opportunity for qualified minors to pursue independent study in Media and Film Studies under the supervision of and appropriate faculty member. The independent study proposal must be approved by the Media and Film Studies Director, in consultation with the faculty member.

MF 399 - Professional Internship in Media and Film Studies

Credits: 1-4

Internship at an advanced level for students whose academic and cocurricular experience has prepared them for professional work in a field related to Media and Film Studies. With faculty sponsorship and program approval, students may extend their educational experience into such areas as journalism and communications, filmmaking, recording, and other related fields.

Prerequisites: MF 101.

Note(s): Open to junior and senior minors. Must be taken S/U.

Note: Students who entered Skidmore prior to fall 2019 can review the individual disciplinary divisions on their degree audit.

Clusters

Cluster I: Media and Culture

Code	Title	Hours
AA 201	Foundations of Arts Administration	3
AA 205	Introduction to Financial Management for the Arts	3
AA 223	Museums Mean Business	3
AAMB 321	Entertainment Law and Business	4
AAMF 323	Law and Ethics for Storytelling in Media	4
AH 251C		4
AH 318	Asian Pop!	4
AH 321	History Of Photography	4
AM 233	Representations of the American Past in Film	4
AM 236		4
AM 261	Themes in American Culture	4
AM 265	Popular Culture	4
AM 351C	(Reading "The Wire", Sports Cinema, American Science Fiction, American Horror Fiction)	4
or AM 351D		
AM 355	Magazines and Modernity	4
AM 356	Sports Cinema	4
AN 201R		4
CC 365	Advanced Topics in Classical Civilization	4
DA 230	Dance and Society I	3
DS 199A		3
DS 201	Principles of Documentary	3
DS 251	Topics in Documentary Studies	3
DS 251B		3
EN 228		3
EN 229	Special Topics in Literature	3
EN 229	Special Topics in Literature	3
EN 253	Graphic Narratives and Comic Books	3
EN 326	Special Studies in Contemporary U.S. Literature and Culture	3
EN 326P		3
EN 364	Advanced Special Studies in Literature and Language	3
GW 251D		3
HI 251D		3
MB 351C		3
MU 345N		4
PY 209	Experimental Methods in Physics	2
SO 221	Media Sociology	3
SO 251C		3
SO 251A-D		1-4
TH 103	Introduction to Theater	4
WLL 239	Japanese Popular Culture	4
WLL 244	Viewing China: Visual Cultural and Transnational Cinema	4
WLL 252	Italian Cinema: From Fiction to Film	4
WLL 255	Introduction to Film Theory and Criticism	4
WLS 363	Special Studies in Spanish (Projecting Spain)	3

Cluster II: Applied Media

Code	Title	Hours
AHDS 324	The Artist Interview	3
AR 136	Digital Foundations	4
AR 209	Communication Design I	4
AR 210	Digital Media I: Interactive Design	4
AR 229	Photography I	4
AR 243	Digital Media I: Animation	4
AR 262B		4
AR 262J	Special Topics In Studio Art: Digital Media	2
AR 262G	Special Topics In Studio Art: Photography	2
AR 264B		3
AR 264G	Special Topics In Studio Art: Photography	4
AR 264J	Special Topics In Studio Art: Digital Media	4
AR 307	Communication Design II	4
AR 310	Digital Media II: Advanced Project	4
AR 330	Breaking Boundaries: Photography II	4
AR 337	Communication Design III	4
AR 340	Photography III	4
AR 351B		4
AR 351G	Special Topics in Studio Art: Photography	4
AR 351J	Special Topics in Studio Art: Digital Media	4
DA 274	Special Studies in Dance Theory and Appreciation	4
DS 110A		1-2
or DS 110B		
DS 111A		1-2
or DS 111B		
DS 112A		1-2
or DS 112B		
DS 113A		1-2
or DS 113B		
DS 114A		1-2
or DS 114B		
DS 115A		1-2
or DS 115B		
DS 119A		1
DS 119A		1
DS 202	Documentary Studies Workshop	3
DS 251	Topics in Documentary Studies	3
DS 251C		3
DS 251D		3
DS 251D		3
DS 351B		3
DS 351D		3
DS 302	Advanced Documentary Studies Workshop	3
DS 351	Advanced Documentary Studies Workshop	3
ID 210	Introduction to GIS	4
MB 351C		3
SO 229	Visual Sociology	4
SO 307	Video Ethnography	4
TH 140	Introduction to Directing	3